



Building bridges throughout our community



Chairman Julius Genachowski
Commissioner Meredith Attwell Baker
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn
Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Commissioner Robert M. McDowell

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Broadband Industry Practices (WC Docket No. 07-52)

Monday, October 12, 2009

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to comment on the Federal Communications Commission's position regarding Net Neutrality.

As I'm sure you are aware, California's unemployment is about 12 percent – the highest since WWII – with even higher rates in our Latino community. Now more than ever, it is essential that broadband access remain affordable.


As the President of Latina-Connection, a consulting firm to businesses and non-profit organizations in Sonoma County, I see firsthand how broadband access influences the way my community conducts business and stays in touch with family and friends. It has become the glue that holds the professional, personal, and logistical pieces of our lives together.

Based on recent remarks made at the CTIA Conference in San Diego, I am concerned that the FCC may head in a direction that would negatively impact both my for-profit and non-profit clients.

Competition and innovation have led to major increases in broadband access, with Latinos adopting broadband at one of the fastest rates in the country. New regulations, like net neutrality, are poised to hamper continued growth, and may even drive up prices, which will be passed along to small businesses and consumers, no doubt.

As you consider any new regulations, I respectfully urge you to focus the FCC's efforts on policies that will help push adoption and access to more Americans, and not on those like net neutrality, that will create higher rates for small businesses.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donna Zapata", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Donna Zapata

President/Founder

Latina-Connection Consulting